

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application  
PCT/EP2003/009809 filed September 4, 2003**

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel claims 1-11, without prejudice, and add new claims 12-30, in accordance with the following complete listing of all claims ever presented. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the instant application:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled)

Claim 12 (New): A method comprising:

- (a) providing a preparation comprising at least one substance which effects a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof; and
- (b) applying the preparation to a substrate selected from the group consisting of skin, scalp, mucous membrane and combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a plant extract.

Claim 14 (New): The method according to claim 13, wherein the plant extract is obtained from a plant selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 15 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation comprises two or more substances which effect a modulation of one or more

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dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof.

Claim 17 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises two or more plant extracts obtained from plants selected from the group consisting of *Pisum sativum*, *Ruscus aculeatus*, *Centella asiatica*, *Calendula officinalis*, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, *Hibiscus esculentus*, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 18 (New): The method according to claim 13, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 19 (New): The method according to claim 17, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 20 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation further comprises a component having anti-protease activity.

Claim 21 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of UV protection factors, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 22 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the preparation comprises a *Ruscus aculeatus* root extract, a *Centella asiatica* extract, a *Calendula officinalis* flower extract, and a *Aesculus hippocastanum* extract.

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Claim 23 (New): The method according to claim 22, wherein the preparation further comprises a component selected from the group consisting of propylene glycol, panthenol, a hydrolyzed yeast protein, ammonium glycyrrhizate and mixtures thereof.

Claim 24 (New): The method according to claim 12, wherein the at least one substance comprises a hydrolyzed Hibiscus esculentus extract.

Claim 25 (New): A cosmetic preparation comprising: (a) at least one substance which effects a modulation of one or more dermal/epidermal junction components selected from the group consisting of plectin/HD1, entactin/nidogen, perlecan and combinations thereof; and (b) a component selected from the group consisting of UV protection factors, antioxidants and mixtures thereof.

Claim 26 (New): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 25, wherein the at least one substance comprises a plant extract.

Claim 27 (New): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 26, wherein the plant extract is obtained from a plant selected from the group consisting of Pisum sativum, Ruscus aculeatus, Centella asiatica, Calendula officinalis, Aesculus hippocastanum, Hibiscus esculentus, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 28 (New): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 25, wherein the at least one substance comprises a component selected from the group consisting of mannitol, cyclodextrin, yeast extracts, panthenol, propylene glycol, ammonium glycyrrhizate, disodium succinate, low molecular weight polypeptides, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 29 (New): A cosmetic preparation comprising two or more plant extracts obtained from plants selected from the group consisting of Pisum sativum, Ruscus

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aculeatus, Centella asiatica, Calendula officinalis, Aesculus hippocastanum, Hibiscus  
esculentus, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 30 (New): The cosmetic preparation according to claim 29, wherein the  
two or more plant extracts comprise a Ruscus aculeatus root extract, a Centella asiatica  
extract, a Calendula officinalis flower extract, and a Aesculus hippocastanum extract.